IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re application of: Neal et al. Attorney Docket No.; DEM1P009

Application No.: 10/007,002 Examiner: Ruhl, Dennis William

Filed: November 30, 2001 Group: 3629

Title: RULE RELAXATION AND SUBSET Confirmation No.: 9261

OPTIMIZATION SYSTEM

FILED VIA EFS

February 16, 2007

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop: RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.